



Ugam Calling...

17th Anniversary Edition-2026

Vision

- To ensure that every childhood cancer survivor finds his/ her way to celebrate life after winning their battle against cancer
- To facilitate their life's journey on the correct path & in the right direction

Mission

- Empowerment of young survivors
- Helping children with cancer who are undergoing treatment
- Social awareness and re-bonding with society

Donations are eligible for Income Tax benefits under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

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HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE

- Volunteer – Help survivors build skills and find jobs.
- Advocate – Support survivor rights and awareness.
- Support – Contribute to education and health needs.
- Participate – Attend meetings and Relay For Life events.

HOW TO JOIN UGAM

Please contact on this number 7021715092
Or visit the ACT Clinic at your nearest partner hospital



Toll free no.
1800 22 1951

For Donations
please scan:



INDIAN CANCER SOCIETY

74 Jerbai Wadia Road, Parel, Mumbai 400 012. Tel : 022-24161875/ 24139445-51
ugam@indiancancersociety.org / info@indiancancersociety.org, www.indiancancersociety.org

Victors of childhood cancer
ugam

DISPLAY HOUSE
DESIGNED BY: EXHIBITION | RETAIL | SPACES

CELEBRATING SURVIVORSHIP

Sangharsh se Sahas tak



Edited by Dr. Purna Kurkure
Cover designed by Shweta Chawre



UGAM 16th Anniversary 2025

Organizing Committee UGAM Anniversary 2026

Organizing Chairperson: Dr. Purna Kurkure

Organizing Secretary: Dr. Vandana Dhamankar, Mrs. Ann Rawat

Co-ordination Committee: Mrs. Bhairavi Gawde, Ms. Preeti Phad and ICS Survivorship and Rehabilitation Team

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Vanchinathan Moopnar, Uzair Sakhi,
Anita Gupta, Anita Kamble

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Shweta Chawre, Dr. Neha Joshi,
Arun Kumar Nadar,

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Tushar More, Shravani Malve,
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Rakhi Dutta

Sports Committee:

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Nirav Chotalia, Sushant Bane,
Tushar More, Rohit Kanse,
Ashish Parulekar (Ugam Friend),
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Gunjan Jotkar, Bhoomi Prajapati,
Neha Konar, Keshav Jha,
Suraj Yadav, Aditya Pal

Fundraising Committee:

Nitin Landge (Ugam Friend),
Saiteja, Shweta Chawre,
Nagesh Naik, Harsh Baxi,
Narendra Shetty, Ekta Rawat,

- We sincerely thank Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan for hosting our Anniversary celebration for the fifth consecutive year.
- We acknowledge the support of ICS's Board of Trustees, Marketing, Administration and Finance teams.
- We sincerely thank our well-wishers, friends, donors, partner hospitals and volunteers for their invaluable contributions.
- We sincerely thank Display House for their consistent support in designing the newsletter.
- We appreciate our Ugam member: Mrs. Shweta Chawre for donating through her creative calendars.



**Message from
Dr Purna Kurkure**

Convener, Ugam
Trustee In charge, Cancer Survivorship & Rehabilitation Vertical
Joint Managing Trustee
Indian Cancer Society.
Head, Division of Paediatric Haemato- Oncology & BMT
NH-SRCC Children's Hospital, Mumbai

My Dear Ugamites,

Congratulations for the successful journey of 17 years of empowering childhood cancer survivors alongside the Indian Cancer Society (ICS) which is celebrating its landmark 75th year of dedicated service to the nation. It is time to pause & reflect on a remarkable journey shaped by resilience, hope, and collective action.

For seventy-five years, ICS has remained at the forefront of India's fight against cancer—providing care, creating awareness, supporting patients and families, and pioneering initiatives that improve lives. Throughout this journey, the organization has continually evolved to address emerging needs, recognizing that cancer care does not end when treatment is completed. True healing extends beyond survival and encompasses the physical, emotional, social, educational, and vocational well-being of every individual affected by cancer.

As UGAM enters its 18th year, it stands like a tree that began as a small sapling nurtured by the courage of nine childhood cancer survivors. Over the years, its roots have grown deeper, its branches have spread wider, and today it provides strength, support, and hope to hundreds of survivors across the country. Each member, family, healthcare professional, and supporter has contributed to its growth, transforming it into a thriving community that continues to blossom and inspire.

Under Project PICASSO (Partnership In Cancer SurvivorShip Optimization), the partner hospitals along with ICS are committed to strengthen survivorship care for optimum service delivery to fulfil survivors needs. A comprehensive Neurorehabilitation centre in collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) for survivors & patients requiring complex neuro-rehabilitation services will be functional soon to commemorate ICS platinum jubilee year. PICASSO roots are strong and inspired by TMH ACT (After Completion of Treatment) Clinic and ICS Ugam. TMH leadership is committed to start the next phase of creating infrastructure for the survivorship care for adult cancers survivors based on learning of childhood cancer survivorship programs & evidence from international models. In the 75th year of ICS, both the pioneering organizations will collaborate to start this initiative.

One of important upcoming initiative is the development of a certified course in childhood cancer survivorship. Designed for health professionals involved in the delivery of survivorship care, the course aims to build greater awareness and understanding of survivorship care while creating a trained human resource for quality care and sustainability.

In alignment with WHO goal of cervical cancer elimination in India, ICS has been conducting a focused HPV vaccination initiative for girl childhood cancer survivors (CCS) aged 9 to 14 years. As children who have undergone chemotherapy or radiotherapy may face a higher risk of HPV-related cancers later in life, vaccination offers an important layer of long-term protection and remains an essential part of survivorship care. Now with the historical decision by the Government of India to include it in National Immunisation programme, ICS resolve to advocate HPV vaccination for every eligible girl including CCS has become a reality & a step towards elimination of cervical cancer in India.

This year's theme “Sangharsh se Sahas tak” - From Struggle to Strength, draws inspiration from the spirit of the Mahabharata, a timeless reflection on courage, resilience, choices, and unity. Like the warriors who faced uncertainty and adversity, every UGAM member has stood at their own Kurukshetra, discovering strength they never knew they possessed. Their journeys remind us that courage is not the absence of fear, but the determination to move forward despite it. The timeless wisdom that emerged when Lord Krishna taught a conflicted Arjuna on Kurukshetra's battlefield which is compiled as Bhagwat Gita addresses our modern-day challenges & offers profound wisdom to shift from struggle to strength, reminding us that we are the architects of our own minds.

“Tough times will come and go away. Learn to tolerate them without being affected by them.
Nothing is permanent in this world,”

- Lord Krishna 1

Indian Cancer Society | 1951–2026: Celebrating 75 Years

In 2026, the Indian Cancer Society marks a profound milestone — three-quarters of a century of service, advocacy, and compassion in the fight against cancer. Founded when cancer was barely spoken of in India, when treatments were limited, and when the very idea of a structured national organisation seemed audacious — ICS was built on courage. Today, it stands as India's oldest and most respected non-profit cancer organisation, and UGAM is proud to carry its spirit forward.



Dr. D. J. Jussawalla
Co-Founder, Indian Cancer Society (1951)

A pioneering oncologist whose vision gave India its first dedicated cancer organisation. He believed that fighting cancer required more than medicine — it demanded public education, early detection, and collective national effort. His enduring legacy lives on through the Dr. D. J. Jussawalla Education Fund, which today helps hundreds of childhood cancer survivors pursue their academic dreams.



Mr. Naval Tata
Co-Founder, Indian Cancer Society (1951)

Mr. Naval Tata brought organisational vision, philanthropic spirit, and institutional credibility to ICS. A member of the Tata family whose commitment to India's social development spans generations, he believed that cancer, like poverty and illiteracy, was a challenge requiring collective, organised action.

UGAM PROFILE

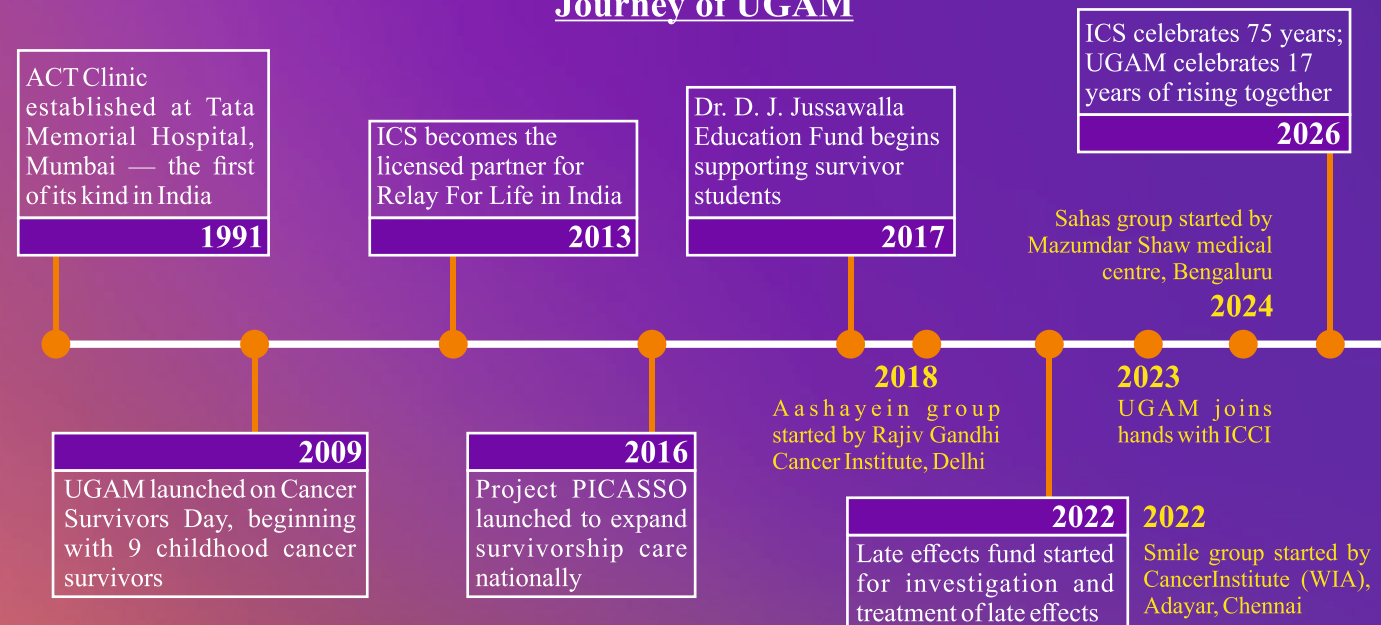
Indian Cancer Society was founded in 1951 by Dr D Jussawalla and Mr Naval Tata as India's first non-profit organization for cancer. Our activities encompass the entire continuum of cancer care - cancer awareness, screening for early detection, financial help for treatment of the underprivileged, support groups, rehabilitation of cancer survivors, cancer registry, research, and education. UGAM is the emotional support group of ICS for Childhood cancer survivors. Ugam means “To Rise”, underscoring the determination of the survivors to rise above all obstacles in life and become VICTORS. UGAM was launched in June 2009, on Cancer Survivors Day celebrated worldwide as a mark of Celebration of Life. Ugam now has 660+ members (majority from Mumbai).

WHAT WE DO?

- Create awareness about the curability of Childhood Cancers.
- Help childhood cancer survivors to begin a new life after cancer and make them aware that there can be and there is a “normal life” after winning the battle with cancer.
- Promote the importance of monitoring the late effects of cancer therapies.
- Advocate against discrimination in society to cancer survivors.
- Highlight the need for public support for the cause of childhood cancer survivors.
- Ugam meetings are held regularly at ICS.
- Encourage formation of other support groups.



Journey of UGAM



As ICS steps into its 76th year, the spirit of its founders remains the foundation of everything we do. UGAM stands as living proof — a community of survivors who rose against the odds, supported by an institution that has been fighting for them for three-quarters of a century.



Dr. C S Pramesh
Convener National Cancer Grid
Director Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
Vice Chairman Indian Cancer Society

As UGAM marks 17 remarkable years of supporting and empowering cancer survivors and caregivers, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire UGAM family for this inspiring journey of compassion, resilience, and hope. It is indeed a privilege to share a few thoughts for this special edition of the UGAM Newsletter 2026, which also coincides with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Cancer Society.

Over the years, UGAM has evolved into much more than a support initiative. It has become a symbol of strength for countless individuals and families navigating the challenges of cancer. Through emotional support, awareness, counselling, rehabilitation, and community engagement, UGAM has demonstrated that healing extends beyond medical treatment — it also lies in empathy, dignity, and human connection. Cancer affects not only the body but also the mind, emotions, relationships, and livelihoods of patients and caregivers alike. In such moments, the role of survivor groups and caregiver networks becomes invaluable. The courage of survivors who share their journeys openly inspires newly diagnosed patients to face treatment with confidence and optimism. Equally, caregivers, who are often the silent pillars of support, deserve recognition and encouragement for their unwavering dedication. As we celebrate this milestone year, it is important to acknowledge every volunteer, counsellor, healthcare professional, donor, survivor, and caregiver who has contributed to UGAM's mission over the past 17 years. Their collective efforts have touched innumerable lives and strengthened the message that no one should face cancer alone.

The Platinum Jubilee of the Indian Cancer Society is also an opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment towards cancer awareness, prevention, early diagnosis, and holistic patient care. Community-driven initiatives such as UGAM play a vital role in complementing medical care by fostering emotional resilience and social reintegration for survivors.

I firmly believe that the future of cancer care must place equal emphasis on survivorship and quality of life. Every survivor story is a testimony to courage. Every caregiver story is a lesson in compassion. Together, they remind us that hope is one of the most powerful medicines.

On this special occasion, I once again congratulate UGAM for its unwavering service and meaningful impact over the last 17 years. May the organization continue to grow, inspire, and empower many more lives in the years ahead. I also convey my best wishes to the Indian Cancer Society on its Platinum Jubilee and commend its longstanding contribution to the fight against cancer in India.

Let us continue to work together to build a future where awareness replaces fear, support replaces isolation, and hope triumphs over despair.



Dr Vandana Dhamankar

Deputy Director General - Medical Affairs,
 Director - Survivorship and Rehabilitation, Indian Cancer Society
 Co-Chairperson- Survivorship and Reintegration Task force,
 Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative(ICCI)

Congratulations to Ugam on completing seventeen years of it's inspiring journey!

Project PICASSO Update

Improvements in paediatric cancer treatment have resulted in increasing numbers of long-term survivors. However, many survivors remain at risk of treatment-related late effects affecting physical health, neurocognitive development, psychosocial well-being, education, and quality of life. Structured long-term follow-up is therefore an essential component of comprehensive cancer care.

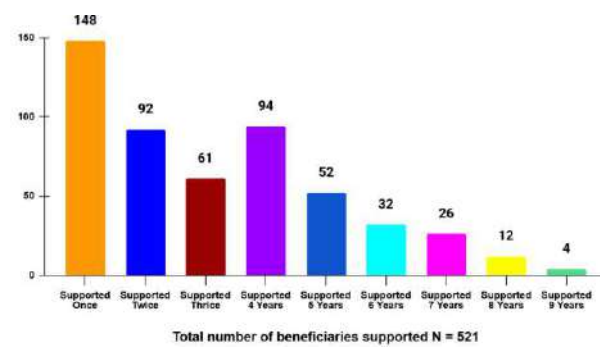
Project PICASSO was established by the Indian Cancer Society in 2016 to strengthen survivorship services for childhood cancer survivors building on the ACT (After completion treatment) Clinic model at Tata Memorial Hospital (1991) and the survivor-led UGAM network at ICS (2009) to strengthen childhood cancer survivorship care across India.

Over the past ten years, Project PICASSO has focussed on building the foundations of survivorship care in India. Through the establishment of ACT clinics across 19 centres and the enrolment of more than 4,000 childhood cancer survivors, a national survivorship network and infrastructure have begun to emerge. While survivorship services remain variable across institutions and considerable gaps persist, the basic framework for long-term follow-up, multidisciplinary care, and collaboration is now in place.

With this foundation established, PICASSO is entering its next phase. The need for specialised training in long-term survivor care has become increasingly evident. To better understand current survivorship practices and workforce needs, we conducted a need assessment survey with inputs from Dr. Melissa Hudson, mentor to our survivorship efforts in India.

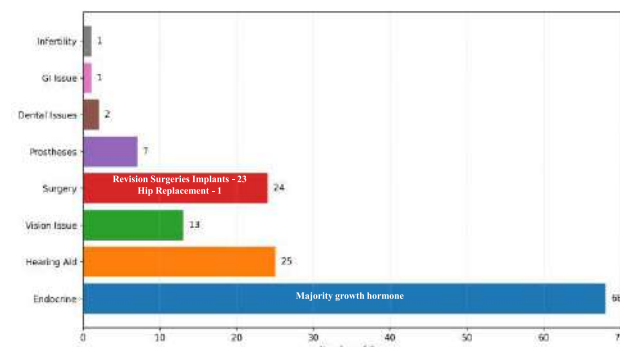
It was distributed to 45 paediatric oncology centres which are PICASSO partners and participants of C2S Study across India. We received responses from 33 centres. Findings demonstrated that although survivorship care was available in most institutions, only 66.7% reported having dedicated survivorship clinics. Key challenges highlighted by service providers included the lack of dedicated staff, limited clinic time, and inadequate funding, while family-level barriers included financial constraints and geographic distance from treatment centres. The survey also identified important gaps in survivorship counselling and follow-up practices. Importantly, healthcare professionals expressed strong interest in additional survivorship training, with the majority indicating willingness to participate in a structured educational programme and a preference for case-based learning approaches. Based on the survey findings, we are planning a survivorship education programme in collaboration with academic partners.

Students supported through Dr. D.J. Jussawalla Education Fund (N=521) from 2017 till 31st March, 2026.
 No. of Reapplications (N=1081)



* Rs. 3.85 Crore utilized from 2017.

No. of Cases Supported for Late Effects (N= 141) f rom 2022 till 31st March, 2026.
 No. of Reapplications (N=260)

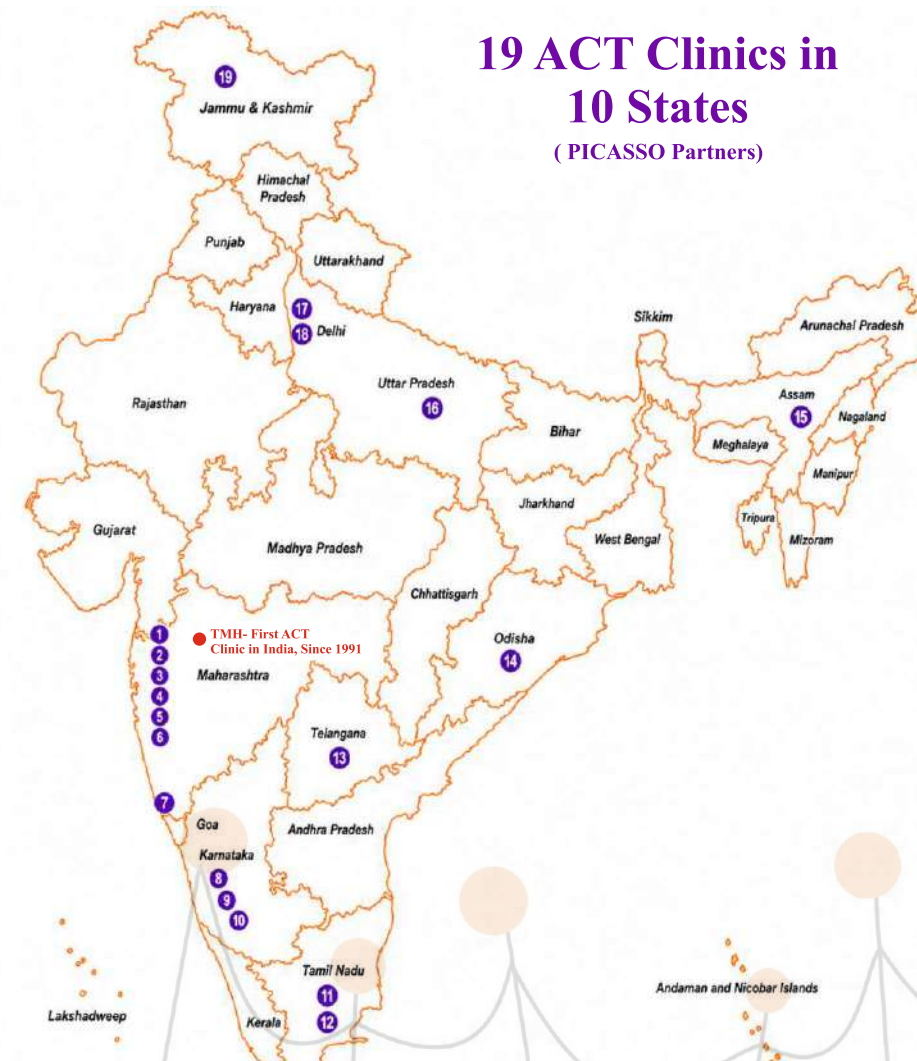


* Rs. 1.73 Crore utilized from 2022.

Project PICASSO at a Glance (From Yr 2017 till 31st March 2026)

- 19 ACT Clinics facilitated nationwide
- 4000+ survivors enrolled
- 141 survivors received financial support for late effects
- Endocrine, Metabolic Sequelae and Bone Health in Long -Term Survivors of Hematolymphoid Cancers: Project done in collaboration with ACT Clinics at SION and Wadia Hospital, Mumbai where 60+ survivors received investigations and treatment support for Hormonal evaluation and Dexa scans.
- 521 survivors supported year on year through education aid
- 162 survivors completed educational milestones.
- Graduation 105 Professional courses 35 Vocational courses 22
- 106 are employed at various levels including self-employments others looking for job, 22 continuing higher education.
- HPV Vaccination for 100+ survivors in Mumbai, Delhi and Varanasi ACT Clinics

* In addition to 6000 + survivors following up at TMH ACT clinic which is operational since 1991.



19 ACT Clinics in 10 States (PICASSO Partners)

S. No.	Names of the Hospital	Oncologist	Psychologist
	Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai	Dr. Maya Prasad	Dr. Savita Goswami
1	Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children (BJWH), Mumbai	Dr. Sangeta Mudalliar	Ms. Revathi Rajagopal
2	Narayana Health SRCC Children's Hospital (SRCC), Mumbai	Dr. Purna Kurkure	Ms. Revathi Rajagopal
3	Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College & General Hospital (LTMGH), Mumbai	Dr. Sujata Sharma	Ms. Lynette Francis
4	Seth G. S. Medical College & King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH), Mumbai	Dr. Jai Juvekar	Ms. Lynette Francis
5	Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Navi Mumbai	Dr. Akanksha Chichra	Ms. Lynette Francis & Ms. Revathi Rajagopal
6	Comprehensive Thalassemia Care Center, Mumbai	Dr. Ratna Sharma	Ms. Bhakti
7	Goa Medical College Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, North Goa	Dr. Anupama Borker	Mr. Sameer
8	Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) / Kasturba Medical College, Manipal	Dr. Emine A. Rahman	Dr. Umesh Thorse
9	Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center (MSCC), Bengaluru	Dr. Sunil Bhat	Ms. Krishna Gayathri
10	Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital (SSCH), Bengaluru	Dr. Anand K. C.	Ms. Visitha (MSW)
11	Kanchi Kamakoti Child Trust Hospital (KKCTH), Chennai	Dr. Arathi Srinivasan	Ms. Nazreen Mohamed
12	Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai (CIA)	Dr. Venkatraman Radhakrishnan	Ms. Diya Rajkumar
13	Basavarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACH&RI), Hyderabad	Dr. Virendra Patil	Ms. Santoshi Tibirsetti
14	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar	Dr. Sonali Mahapatra	To Be Appointed
15	Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati	Dr. Munlima Hazarika	Ms. Anrita Goswami
16	Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (HBCCH) / Mahatma Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre (MPMMCC), Varanasi	Dr. Raghavesh Ranjan	Ms. Smriti Dhar
17	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi	Dr. Rachana Seth	Ms. Priya Dixit
18	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre (RGCI), New Delhi	Dr. Gauri Kapoor	Ms. Jahnvi Kumar
19	Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar	Dr. Faisal Guru	Ms. Sadaf Wani



Dr. Savita Goswami

Clinical Psychologist & Psycho-Oncologist
Department of Psycho-Oncology, Tata Memorial Hospital

“Struggle to Strength” Via Return to Education and Return to Work

प्रिय उगम,
उगम के सत्रहवें स्थापना दिवस पर हार्दिक बधाई। इस वर्ष की थीम “Struggle to Strength” हर कैंसर सर्वाइवर की हिम्मत और संघर्ष की कहानी को दर्शाती है।

बाल्यावस्था के कैंसर सर्वाइवर्स के लिए “Return to Education and Return to Work” यानी पढ़ाई, नौकरी और सामान्य जीवन में वापसी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। यह सिर्फ पढ़ाई या काम शुरू करना नहीं, बल्कि अपना आत्मविश्वास वापस पाना, अपने सपनों को फिर से जीना और आत्मनिर्भर बनना है। लंबे इलाज और कठिन समय के बाद दोबारा आगे बढ़ना अपने आप में एक बड़ी जीत है।

बीमारी, कैंसर के इलाज या अन्य कठिन परिस्थितियों के बाद व्यक्ति को दोबारा पढ़ाई और काम शुरू करने में मदद की जरूरत होती है। सर्वाइवर के पुनर्वसन के लिए सही मार्गदर्शन, शारीरिक, मानसिक और बौद्धिक क्षमताओं की जांच, नियमित ACT फॉलोअप, मेडिकल, शैक्षणिक, कामकाज से जुड़ा और भावनात्मक सहयोग बहुत जरूरी है। साथ ही स्वयं की देखभाल भी महत्वपूर्ण है। अच्छी नींद, सही खाना, नियमित व्यायाम और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य का ध्यान रखना सर्वाइवर्स को मजबूत बनाता है।

Self-empowerment skills का मतलब है खुद पर विश्वास करना और अपनी जिंदगी के फैसले खुद लेने की क्षमता विकसित करना। ऐसे skills सीखना और आत्मनिर्भर बनना सर्वाइवर्स को आगे बढ़ने की प्रेरणा देता है।

पढ़ाई और कामकाज में वापसी के लिए उगम जैसे सपोर्ट ग्रुप, स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएँ, परिवार, शैक्षणिक संस्थाएँ, अस्पताल और व्यावसायिक संस्थाएँ अगर मिलकर काम करें, तो हर सर्वाइवर के जीवन का पुनर्निर्माण करने में बहुत मदद मिल सकती है।

अंत में, “Return to Education and Work” सिर्फ पढ़ाई या नौकरी की शुरुआत नहीं, बल्कि नई जिंदगी की ओर बढ़ाया गया एक मजबूत कदम है। सही सहयोग और आत्मविश्वास के साथ हर सर्वाइवर अपने सपनों को पूरा कर सकता है और दूसरों के लिए प्रेरणा बन सकता है। हम सभी को इस बारे में जागरूक होकर उपचार के तुरंत बाद से ही पढ़ाई और कामकाज में वापसी के प्रयास शुरू करने चाहिए।



Dr. Maya Prasad

Paediatric Oncologist and Professor- Tata Memorial Hospital

Congratulations to all members of Ugam on the 17th anniversary.

Dear UGAM Members,
The UGAM Open Forum – Let's Talk Series was started to create a space where survivors and caregivers can come together to learn, ask questions, and share experiences. Through this monthly educational series, we have spoken about important topics such as heart health, nutrition, mental health, reproductive health, and healthy living. Each session has been led by experts and has helped us talk openly about concerns that matter in everyday life after cancer treatment. It has been encouraging to see so many survivors and caregivers from all over the country take part and benefit from these discussions.

This forum also reminds us of an important truth: when we understand our health better, we are better prepared to take care of ourselves. Knowledge helps us make informed choices, build healthy habits, and notice when something needs attention. It gives us confidence to ask questions, seek help, and support others too.

As UGAM members, we have already shown great strength. With the right information and support, we can continue to grow stronger in body, mind, and spirit. Let us keep learning, staying connected, and using what we learn to lead healthy, happy, and meaningful lives.

Please let us know if there are other topics that we should discuss. Remember to contact your doctor and healthcare team if you have any questions related to your treatment or health.



Dr. Anupama Borkar

Professor and Head
Department of Medical Oncology, Goa Medical College and Hospital, Goa

Cancer which was once considered a fatal disease is now curable in a large number of patients. Childhood cancers are generally considered more curable than most adult cancers. Hodgkin lymphoma, germ cell tumours and acute lymphoblastic leukemia have cure rates above 90%. These cure rates are achieved as a result of the use of multi-modality therapy including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy and bone marrow transplantation. While the acute toxicity is dealt with during treatment, the long-term toxicity and sequelae can hamper the quality of life of these patients.

The treatment of cancer in children and young adults is usually long drawn—like a marathon. For many patients, the end of treatment usually comes as an anti climax. They feel lost, confused about how to reclaim their “normal lives”, and about issues like diet, exercise and reintegrating back into their societal roles. With the passage of time, they feel detached from the treating team, and the interactions become too short to address their myriad issues and answer their queries.

These long-term sequelae include not only physical but also psychosocial aspects. Physical morbidity includes cardiotoxicity, neurotoxicity, hearing loss, endocrine dysfunction and fertility issues. Psychosocial issues include depression, anxiety, fear of recurrence, survivor guilt, social isolation and post-traumatic stress disorder. Many survivors have to deal with organ loss, disfigurement and chronic fatigue. There are challenges in higher education, job opportunities, marriage prospects and health insurance.

The After Completion of Therapy clinic offers structured long-term follow-up to manage the late effects of treatment, monitor for recurrence and improve quality of life. It provides a detailed survivorship care plan, supports transition from active treatment to long-term health management and offers psychological care, nutritional advice, educational support and lifestyle guidance.

In collaboration with Indian Cancer Society, Goa Medical College and Hospital launched the ACT clinic for children and young adults on 5th May 2026. With this clinic, we hope to offer our survivors better long-term follow-up and better quality of life.



Joao Braganca

Immediate past president, Childhood Cancer International

SurNet

SurNet, the Global Survivorship Network of Childhood Cancer International (CCI), was created to connect, empower, and amplify the voices of childhood cancer survivors worldwide. Its main objectives are to promote survivorship awareness, advocate for long-term follow-up care, support peer connection, and ensure that survivors are meaningfully involved in policies and programmes that affect their lives.

One of SurNet's greatest strengths is its diversity. The Steering Committee brings together survivors from all regions of the world, reflecting different cultures, healthcare realities, and survivorship experiences. This global perspective helps ensure that no survivor feels invisible or alone.

Throughout the year, SurNet develops initiatives that foster dialogue and collaboration, including the annual Survivors Week Webinar, held during the last full week of June. These sessions create a space for survivors, families, healthcare professionals, and advocates to share experiences and learn from one another.

Joining a global network means becoming part of a stronger collective voice. It means finding support, contributing to global campaigns, and realizing: “I am not alone.” Survivors are living proof that childhood cancer can be beaten — but survivorship also brings lifelong challenges, including the need for ongoing long-term follow-up and monitoring of possible late effects.

We warmly invite survivors everywhere to join this growing global community and get involved by contacting survivors@cci.care.



Dr. Ramandeep Singh Arora

Visiting Consultant, Paediatric Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi
Director, Indian Pediatric Hematology Oncology Group (INPHOG)
Member, Governance Council, Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI)
Independent Contractor, St Jude Global

On the auspicious occasion of the 17th anniversary of ICS Ugam, celebrated during the historic Platinum Jubilee year of the Indian Cancer Society, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Ugam family. As the first support group for childhood cancer survivors in India, Ugam continues to be a beacon of hope, resilience, and transformation.

Survivorship is not merely about completing treatment; it is about ensuring that every cured child thrives and achieves their full potential. At the Indian Pediatric Hematology Oncology Group (INPHOG), we are deeply committed to this mission, notably through our Survivorship (C2S) study, which aims to build robust, data-driven frameworks for long-term follow-up and late-effects management tailored to our context. Furthermore, through the Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI), our strategic focus has intensified on developing a comprehensive national survivorship policy and building the medical and psychosocial capacity required to support it.

True victory over childhood cancer is realized when our survivors lead healthy, fulfilling lives. By aligning clinical research with policy and advocacy, we can bridge existing gaps and establish structured survivorship care across India. Together with pioneer organizations like ICS Ugam, we will continue to champion the rights and futures of our survivors.

Bone Marrow Transplant After Completion of Treatment (BMT ACT) Clinic (TMC-ACTREC)

Dr. Navin Khattry, Dr. Akanksha Chichra, Dr. Sachin Punatar, Dr. Anant Gokarn, Dr. Sumeet Mirgh, Dr. Gourav Bain, Dr. Yamuna Naik, and Dr. Swati Satpute.
Indian Cancer Society – Psychosocial Services Team
Ms. Revathi Rajagopal and Ms. Lynette Francis.

The Bone Marrow Transplant After Completion of Treatment (BMT ACT) Clinic was established in August 2025 through a collaboration between Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), ACTREC, and the Indian Cancer Society (ICS) to provide comprehensive survivorship care for children, adolescents, and young adults (0-39 years) who have undergone bone marrow transplantation.

The clinic caters to survivors of autologous and allogeneic transplants, including matched sibling, matched unrelated, haploidentical, and cord blood transplants. Since its inception, the clinic has registered over 100 survivors, offering multidisciplinary follow-up services every Wednesday.

The BMT ACT Clinic focuses on the early identification and management of late effects, monitoring of chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease (GVHD), psychosocial support, health education, and the promotion of overall well-being. Recognizing that survivorship extends far beyond the completion of treatment, the clinic addresses the evolving medical, psychological, educational, and social needs of survivors and their families. With support from the Indian Cancer Society, eligible survivors also receive financial assistance for education and treatment-related late effects, helping improve access to long-term care and opportunities for personal growth and development.

This initiative marks an important milestone in strengthening survivorship services and reaffirms our shared commitment to helping survivors lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives beyond cancer treatment.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

BUSINESS

HDFC Bank Parivartan to field largest Corporate Contingent at Mumbai Marathon 2026 to Support Cancer Awareness

By team
JAN 15, 2026

BUSINESS NEWS FOR PROFIT
Monthly Business Magazine: Jan, 2026

Mumbai, Jan 15: HDFC Bank, through its CSR programme Parivartan, will mobilise nearly 1,500 employees to participate in the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026, scheduled to be held on January 18, in support of cancer awareness and early detection. The Bank has partnered with the Indian Cancer Society (ICS), India's oldest non-profit organisation dedicated to cancer care.

Under its Healthcare and Hygiene pillar, HDFC Bank Parivartan focuses on improving access to primary and preventive healthcare, strengthening health infrastructure, and encouraging health-seeking behaviour in communities. The partnership with ICS at the Tata Mumbai Marathon reinforces this commitment by promoting early detection of cancers that are highly treatable when diagnosed early.

This collaboration builds on HDFC Bank Parivartan's broader commitment to community health. As part of the marathon, ICS will also field a contingent of over 100 runners, including young cancer survivors and ICS employees.

आयसीएसच्या 'उगम'तर्फे बालकॅन्सरमुक्त जीवनाचा उत्सव साजरा



मुंबई: भारतातील कॅन्सरविषयी कार्य करणारी पहिली स्वयंसेवी संस्था असलेल्या इंडियन कॅन्सर सोसायटीने (आयसीएस), बालकॅन्सरमुक्त जीवनाचा उत्सव साजरा केला. २००९ साली स्थापन झालेल्या उगमचा उद्देश बालकॅन्सर बरा होऊ शकतो, याबाबत जनजागृती करणे आणि अखंडतऱ्यांच्या प्रवासाला या लढवऱ्यांचा मानसिक व सामाजिक आधार देणे हा आहे. या वर्षीचा कार्यक्रम 'काल आज आणि कल' या संकल्पनेवर आधारित होता. या संकल्पनेद्वारे उगमच्या या लहान योद्ध्यांनी केलेल्या प्रवासात, त्यांची मानसिक व शारीरिक प्रगती, समाजात पुन्हा एकत्र होण्याची ताकद आणि आशेने भरलेले भविष्य अधोरेखित करण्यात आले.

या कार्यक्रमात देशभरातून आलेले ३५० हून अधिक कॅन्सरमुक्त लहान मुले, नाबालक अर्जेंटिना, आयसीएसचे विवेक, देवगीदार आणि हितचिंतक उपस्थित होते. उगमच्या सदस्यांनी त्यांच्या प्रेरणादायी सदस्यीकरणांनी कार्यक्रमाला सुरुवात केली, जे त्यांच्या कॅन्सरविरोधातील लढ्याचा आणि त्यातून मिळालेल्या विजयाचा गौरव करणारे होते. देशभरातील अनेक बालकॅन्सरमुक्त मुलांनी त्यांच्या कथा आणि कलागुण सादर केले. आयसीएसतर्फे तिसरे राष्ट्रीय कॅन्सरमुक्त कार्यशाळा आयोजित करण्यात आली असून, यामध्ये भागीदार रुग्णालयांकून बालव्याजा जाणाऱ्या आहार कर्मस्थान ऑफ डेवपी (परीटी) विलिंकमधील अनुभव शेअर केले. या कार्यशाळेत बालकॅन्सरमुक्त जीवनासाठी आवश्यक असलेले मनोवैज्ञानिक आघाराने शक्यतः मॉडेल तयार करण्यावरही चर्चा झाली.

कार्यक्रमाचे प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून टाटा मेमोरिअल सेंटर, मुंबईचे संचालक डॉ. सुदीप गुप्ता उपस्थित होते, तर माजी भारतीय क्रिकेटपटू आणि सामाजिक संघर्ष माजराकर यांनी विशेष पाहुणे म्हणून उपस्थिती लावली. विदर्भाक अमोल मुन्ते, देशभरातील नामवंत कॅन्सरतज्ज्ञ, मानसशास्त्रज्ञ आणि उगमचे ज्येष्ठ सदस्यही या उत्सवाचे सक्षीदार होते.

भारतामध्ये दरवर्षी सुमारे ५२,३६६ बालक (०-१४ वर्षे) आणि ७६,८०५ बालक व किशोरवयीन (०-१९ वर्षे) वयोगटातील मुले कॅन्सरने ग्रस्त होतात. बालकॅन्सरचा उच्चार हा फलकामसाठी अतिशय त्रासदायक ठरतो. विशेषतः जेव्हा त्यांना कॅन्सर बरा होऊ शकतो, याबाबत योग्य माहिती मिळत नाही. उगम या कठीण काळात फालक व मुलांना मानसिक आधार देण्याचे काम करते. "असे उगमच्या संयोजिका डॉ. पूर्णा ए. कुर्कुरे यांनी यांनी सांगितले. कार्यक्रमात डॉ. वंदना धामणकर यांनी आयसीएसच्या सहाय्या कॅन्सरमुक्त उपक्रमाची माहिती दिली. यानंतर 'उगमसोबत चहा' या शीर्षकाखाली सविता गोस्वामी यांनी एक ममकाळा संवाद आयोजित केला होता, जिथे बालकॅन्सरमुक्त झालेले सदस्य त्यांचे अनुभव मोकळेपणाने शेअर करू शकले. यावेळी 'उगम'चे वार्षिक वृत्तपत्र प्रकाशित करण्यात आले, तसेच शैक्षणिक, क्रीडा व कलाक्षेत्रातील यशस्वी सदस्यांचा सत्कारही करण्यात आला. "तरुण कॅन्सरमुक्त योद्ध्यांना सक्षम बनवण्याच्या आमच्या ध्येयासाठी एकनिष्ठ राहून, उगमचा दृष्टिकोन असा आहे की, प्रत्येक बालकॅन्सरमुक्त व्यक्तीने जीवनाचा विजय साजरा करावा आणि आरोग्यपूर्ण आयुष्य जगावे," असेही डॉ. पूर्णा कुर्कुरे यांनी सांगितले.

NAVBHARAT TIMES, GOA
7TH MAY, 2026

ACT clinic at GMC to support cancer survivors

NT Reporter
Panaji

J P Tiwari, Dean, GMC and Dr Anupama Borker, Professor and Head, Department of Medical Oncology, on behalf of GMC, with Dr Vandana Dhamankar, Director, Survivorship and Rehabilitation, Indian Cancer Society.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane on Wednesday inaugurated the After Completion of Treatment (ACT) Clinic at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, to support cancer survivors, especially children and young adults, as they transition to long-term health and well-being.

Rane said that the ACT Clinic will offer structured survivorship care plans, continuous monitoring, and holistic support, including psychological care, nutrition guidance, and lifestyle counselling, ensuring that recovery is not just medical, but truly life-affirming.

"Today, we take a compassionate step forward in cancer care—one that stands by patients even after treatment ends. The ACT Clinic was inaugurated, marking a dedicated effort to support cancer survivors—especially children and young adults—as they transition to long-term health and well-being," Rane said.

"With over 9,000 patients registered at GMC and nearly 7-8 per cent being young individuals with a high chance of cure, this initiative is about safeguarding not just lives, but the many years that lie ahead," Rane said.

The MoU for the initiative was signed between Dr

Events organised by Ugam

Ugam's 15th Anniversary –
Theme: Kal, Aaj aur Kal (Past, Present & Future)
1st June 2025 | Y.B. Chavan Auditorium, Mumbai



Release of the UGAM newsletter 2025
 Left to right: Dr. Vandana Dhamankar, Mrs. Ann Rawat, Dr. Girish Chinnaswamy, Dr. Purna Kurkure, Shree Sanjay Manjrekar, Dr. Sudeep Gupta, Mr. Gautam Chakravarti, Mrs. Usha Thorat, Mr. Amol Gupte, Dr. Savita Goswami, Mr. Hari Mundra and Ms. Preeti Phad

- 525+ attendees and 700+ online viewers joined the UGAM Anniversary Celebration 2025 from across India.
- Cultural performances included the Prayer Dance, “From Swords to Drones,” and “From Warrior to Victor.”
- The latest UGAM Newsletter was launched, survivors were felicitated, and ₹10 lakh was received in donations.
- The event concluded with “Chai with UGAM,” the UGAM theme song, and fellowship among survivors and families.



Chai with UGAM, led by Savita Goswami



Dance performance by survivors



Cricket legend Mr. Sanjay Manjrekar signs the bat

3rd National Survivorship Workshop – 2nd June 2025

3 rd NATIONAL SURVIVORSHIP WORKSHOP		
Insights from ACT clinics at ICS partner hospitals		
	DATE	TIME
	2 nd June 2025 (Monday)	9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
	VENUE	ICS Multiactivity Hall
AGENDA		
TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER / FACILITATOR
9.30 – 9.35 am	Welcome	Dr Purna Kurkure
9.35 – 9.40 am	Introduction	Dr Vandana Dhamankar
	Childhood Cancer Survivorship: India's Regional Reflections	Chair persons– Dr Gouwami Dr Surendran Dr Savita Sapra
9.45 – 10.00 am	ACT clinic experience, Neurocognitive Assessments and interventions at AIIMS ACT Clinic	Pritya Dixit, AIIMS Delhi
10.00 – 10.15 am	ACT Clinic experience	Divya Rajkumar, CI Adyar(WIA) Chennai
10.15 – 10.30 am	ACT Clinic experience	Angrita , BBGI Guwahati, Assam
10.30 – 10.45 am	ACT Clinics Mumbai	Revathi Rajgopal, Mumbai
10.45 – 11.00 am	Tea Break	
11.00 – 11.15 am	Experts speak	
11.00 – 11.15 am	Evidence based practice, publishing your work	Dr Anita Borges, Vice Chairperson ICS
11.15 – 11.30 am	Improving follow up through effective counselling	Savita Goswami, TMH
11.30 – 11.45 am	Medical Late effects : Psychosocial implications	Dr Venkata Ram Mohan Gollamudi, TMH
11.45 am – 12.30 pm	Break out session	3 groups – Distributing the psychosocial Questionnaire and take feedback. Each group will present the points in 5 min each – Top 5 issues and approach
12.30 – 12.45 pm	Summary , Q&A	Dr Vandana Dhamankar , Bhairavi Gawde , Revathi



3rd National Survivorship Workshop

The 3rd National Survivors Workshop brought together psychologists and oncologists from ACT clinics at ICS partner hospitals across India, advancing integrative, evidence-based mental health services in oncology.



SEPTEMBER CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Sep 2025 – Survivors and psychologists spread hope through the Gold Ribbon Frame Campaign.



30 Sep 2025 – Survivors connected and celebrated at the Smile Group Activity in Chennai.

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2026 15th February 2026 | Theme: “Demonstrating Impact: From Challenge to Change”



14 Feb 2026 – UGAM members inspired young patients at SRCC Hospital on ICCD.



25 Feb 2026 – Survivors and parents came together for yoga, gifts and shared experiences at LTMGH Sion Hospital.

AWARENESS ACTIVITIES:



16 Aug 2025 – UGAM survivors joined the Dahi Handi Awareness Programme in Thane.



17 Dec 2025 – Oracle volunteers shared a memorable day with survivors.



40 Ugam survivors participated in the Dream Run at the Tata Mumbai Marathon at Marine Lines, Mumbai – spreading awareness for childhood cancer and HPV vaccination. Supported by HDFC Parivartan



Global Relay For Life: Survivors Inspiring Change

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life (RFL), led by ICS Ugam, brought together students, educators, and childhood cancer survivors across India to promote cancer awareness, HPV vaccination, and tobacco prevention. Through powerful survivor stories and interactive awareness activities, the program fostered empathy, hope, and healthy choices among young people.



Global Relay for Life Forum, 2025- London



Relay for Life: A Time to Celebrate, Remember, and Fight Back.



UGAM Members: Tushar More, Anushka Nandgaonkar, Priyanka Padman, Nirja Patil, Aaditya Pal, Gunjan Jotkar, Lavina, Suraj Yadav, Aadarsh Prajapati, Bhakti Solkar, Imran, Faiz, Sufiyan Chowdhry, Rohit Kanse, Siddhi Shelar, Raj Singh, Tushar Sahu, Abhishek Yadav, Ritika Maurya, Shrihari Naidu, Shweta Doblial

UGAM Friends: Rashi Merani, Dr. Avinash Deo, Dr. Ashwi Sathyan, Ashish Parulekar

ICS Team: Anita Ramsinghani, Keshav Jha, Preeti Phad



We are proud to share that **Ms. Gunjan Jotkar** has been selected as a **Global Hero of Hope – Class of 2026**, joining 19 inspiring childhood cancer survivor leaders from 11 countries worldwide.



KANAKIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Rashtriya Seva Bhawan



DHIRUBHAI AMBANI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ESTD. 2003



JBCN International School



OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
PRESHOVATI, CHANDRANAGAR

Dr. D J Jussawalla Education & Vocational Skills Fund

Applications are open for the academic year 2026-27

Eligibility Criteria: Cancer victims between the age group of 10 to 20 years who have completed treatment in ICS empaneled hospitals.

Support provided: Career guidance, school and college fees, psychological counselling, vocational course fees and individualised education guidance.

Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today

For more information: 02222 4139445 / 51

- Ms. Prajakta Dandge: educationfund@indiancancersociety.org / 8591405582
- Mr. Kiran Shinde: kiran@indiancancersociety.org / 92219 21799

Disclaimer: Applications will be evaluated and selected by the ICS Committee. No reimbursements will be provided for fees already paid.

LATE EFFECT FUNDING SUPPORT

Applications Open for F.Y. 2026-27

Eligibility Criteria:

- Cancer survivors who have completed treatment and are registered with the ACT Clinic at ICS partner hospitals.

Counselling and Financial Support Provided For:

- Hearing Aid
- Growth Hormones & Other Issues
- Vision Problems
- Prosthesis
- Fertility Issues
- Dental Problems
- Other Problems

Supporting survivors beyond treatment, for a healthier tomorrow.

For more information: 0222 4139445 / 51

- Ms. Preeti Phad: lateeffect@indiancancersociety.org / 7021715082
- Mr. Kiran Shinde: kiran@indiancancersociety.org / 92219 21799

Disclaimer: Applications will be evaluated and selected by the ICS Advisory Committee.



Late Effect Fund QR Code



DJ Scholarship QR Code

Skill Development Courses available at Rehabilitation Centre, ICS

VLCC

ब्यूटीशियन कोर्स
(नि: शुल्क पोसाक प्रदान कराईल)

टाइमिंग: राह्य: 11-12:00 पर्यंत, 2:00-3:00 पर्यंत; राह्य: 7-9, 2:00-3:00 पर्यंत, 6:00-7:00 पर्यंत

कातावाची: 100 दिवस, उमर: 16 से 48 साल तक

INDIAN CANCER SOCIETY

सिलाई काम से कमाई का सुनहरा मौका

अगर आप सिधी सिलाई जानते हैं, तो केवल 8 दिन के प्रशिक्षण पश्चात आप को सिलाई का काम दिया जाएगा।

पात्रता: कंधार परीन, कंधार से पीछे हुए लोग, कंधार पीछे न होने के विकल्पकर्ता

For more details Please contact:
Call/WhatsApp: +91 8591405582 / 8591405582
Email: bhairav@indiancancersociety.org

सिलाई कोर्स

सर्वांगीण, फॉर्मल मॉडल और उच्चतर निर्भर लोगों के लिए

कातावाची: 100 दिवस, उमर: 16 से 48 साल तक

Affiliations & Associations



Products available at Rehabilitation Centre, ICS



Rehab Product Catalogue QR Code

ACHIEVEMENTS:



HARLEEN KAUR | Age: 25 Years

Harleen received a Gold Medal in her Master's degree in Packaging Technology from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.



ANSHIKA RANI | Age: 19 Years

Anshika scored 90.60% in her Class IX examinations and continues to excel in her studies.



PARAG LIGDE | Age: 22 Years

Parag has participated in nearly 50 marathons and serves as a marathon brand ambassador in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.



Note: Scan the QR code to read the full achievement stories

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Standard	Name of Survivor	Hospital	%
10th	Aadya Singh	H BCH	94.00%
12th Science	Hasini Kasa	BIACH	93.00%
10th	Shwetha	Muzumdar Shaw	92.00%
B.Sc. IT	Raja Gopalnandan Varma	SION	92.00%
B.Ed	Bhumika Babarao Bhalerao	TMH	90.00%
10th	Akshaya	CIA	88.00%
12th Arts	Krushna Gajanan Kendre	TMH	88.00%
10th	Dhananjay Sain	AIIMS	88.00%
10th	Azmatullah Khan	TMH	88.00%
12th MPC	Amaan Arshad Hussain	BIACH	88.00%
10th	Bhoomika E Patil	Shankara	86.00%
10th	Jay Prakash Gothwal	KEM	86.00%
12th Arts	Pratheeksha V P	Muzumdar Shaw	85.00%
12th PCB	Badal Tiwari	RGCI	85.00%
10th	Aditya Vijay Balure	TMH	84.00%
10th	Nandan S	Muzumdar Shaw	84.00%
10th	Khan Maqsood	SKIMS	83.00%
10th	Shaurya Shukla	H BCH	82.00%
10th	Mehreen Shariff	Shankara	82.00%
10th	Firdos Shah	KEM	81.00%

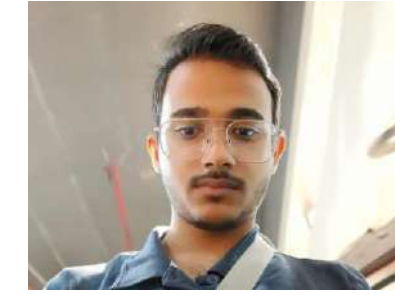
Our students continue to make us proud with their academic accomplishments. While many performed exceptionally well, the students featured below have earned 80% or more, and are being recognized for their outstanding achievement.

UGAM STORIES: CELEBRATING LIFE BEYOND CANCER



SHRISHTI YADAV | Age: 16 Years
Treated at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre.

After overcoming leukaemia treatment and a bone marrow transplant, Shrishti now dreams of becoming a doctor and helping others.



HARSH BHATT | Age: 16 Years
Treated at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre.

Harsh fought bone cancer with immense courage while continuing his education despite emotional and physical challenges



BADAL TIWARI | Age: 18 Years
Treated at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre.

Having successfully completed treatment, Badal now aspires to build a career in dietetics and support children through NGO work.



UPASANA SARANIA | Age: 12 Years
Treated at Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute

Despite severe financial struggles during treatment, Upasana recovered and continues her education with support from ICS



PRATYASHI SARMA | Age: 11 Years
Treated at Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute

Pratyashi completed a difficult treatment journey and gradually regained confidence in both studies and school life.



MEHVISH HAMID | Age: 18 Years
Treated at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences

Through health and emotional struggles, Mehvish remained determined and is now pursuing nursing with resilience and hope.



PEER ATHER | Age: 21 Years
Treated at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences

After a long cancer treatment journey, Peer Ather is now pursuing B.Tech with continued educational support.



JAGRITI SINGH | Age: 17 Years
Treated at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital

Jagrati survived advanced cancer and multiple surgeries, emerging stronger and inspired to become a doctor in the future.



BHUMIKA BHALERAO | Age: 21 Years
Treated at Tata Memorial Hospital

Overcame relapsed cancer treatment and continues to excel academically while pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher.



SHAURYA PRADEEP TIWARI | Age: 9 Years
Treated at Tata Memorial Hospital

Successfully completed AML treatment and continues to shine in academics and extracurricular activities with confidence and determination.



Note: Scan the QR code to read the full survivors stories

Our Victors Shine in Reputed Companies & Organizations:

Axis Bank	Muthoot Mercantile Ltd
IDBI Bank	Alchemy Co.
Bank of Maharashtra	Shanthi Gears
Bank of India	Kevat
St. Jude	Orange
Central Bank of India	CanKids
TCS	Reliance
TMH, Varanasi	Greater Bombay Co-op Bank
NYKAA	Hamleys
Lokmat News Paper	Ola Electronic Technology
Rizvi College	Anupam Kher's Studio
Nazara Technologies	Max Hospital
Ranchod Infrastructure	Ultra Tech Cement
Teacher in Govt School - Bihar	Adani Group Lounge International Airport
Sushrut Hospital, Chembur	Aarey Dairy
Preview company	BNP Paribas Bank
TechMojo Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Oris Perfume Co
Hasumati Mohanlal Parekh High School - Dahanu	
Chaitanya Project Consultancy Pvt. Ltd	
DRDO - Defence Research & Development Organisation.	

Key Highlights from National & International Forums

NAPPOCON 2025 – First National Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Conference, Bengaluru | 1–2 August 2025
Ms. Revathi Rajagopal was invited as a speaker and contributed to discussions on pediatric psycho-oncology and survivorship care.

SIOP–CCI 2025, Amsterdam | 20–23 October 2025
Ms. Preeti Phad participated as a SurNet Member representing India, showcasing Ugam's growing contribution to global childhood cancer survivorship initiatives.

London Global Cancer Week | Online | 27 November 2025
Dr. Vandana Dhamankar was invited to deliver a session on “Paediatric Oncology Rehabilitation – Global Realities in an Evolving Healthcare Landscape,” highlighting the need for comprehensive rehabilitation services for childhood cancer survivors in India.

9th PHOSSCON Conference, Manipal, Karnataka | 28–29 November 2025
Organized by CanKids KidsCan, with Ugam as co-host. Participants included Dr. Purna Kurkure, Dr. Vandana Dhamankar, Ms. Revathi Rajagopal, Ms. Priya Dixit, and Ms. Preeti Phad.

PHOCON 2025, Manipal, Karnataka | 28–30 November 2025
Dr. Vandana Dhamankar presented a situational analysis on late effects in childhood cancer survivors, emphasizing the urgent need for structured survivorship programs.

Global Relay For Life Forum 2025, London
Dr. Vandana Dhamankar represented the Indian Cancer Society, joining delegates from 30 countries to strengthen partnerships and advance the global fight against cancer.

6th CanCon Odisha – Childhood Cancer Stakeholders Conference, AIIMS Bhubaneswar | 22 February 2026
Ms. Revathi Rajagopal participated in discussions on psychosocial support, survivorship care, and long-term follow-up services for childhood cancer survivors.

St. Jude Global ALSAC South Asia Regional Meeting, Mumbai | 9–11 March 2026
Dr. Vandana Dhamankar and Mr. Madhav Nene represented the Indian Cancer Society and contributed to regional discussions on strengthening pediatric cancer survivorship.

CANREHAB 2026, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai

- **17–19 April 2026:** Dr. Purna Kurkure, Dr. Vandana Dhamankar, Bhairavi Gawde, Dr. Neha Joshi, Revathi Rajagopal, Lynette Francis, and Preeti Phad participated at CANREHAB 2026, Mumbai.
- **18 April 2026:** ICS co-organized the psycho-oncology workshop “Return to Work after Cancer Treatment,” featuring survivor speakers Sumit Dhir and Hemant Pardeshi. Panelists names
- **19 April 2026:** Dr. Purna Kurkure delivered keynote address on Rehabilitation in Cancer Survivorship: Supporting Long-Term Recovery and Wellness.

- Revathi Rajagopal presented research on neurocognitive impairment and rehabilitation pathways in childhood and adolescent cancer survivors.

- **Ugam in Action:** Preeti Phad highlighted the role of survivor support groups in rehabilitation, while five Ugamaties received a standing ovation for their dance performance.

CReDO Workshop 2026, Lonavala
Ms. Preeti Phad participated as a Patient Advocate at the International Collaboration for Research Methods Development in Oncology (CReDO) workshop, emphasizing the importance of survivor voices in oncology research.

ICS Platinum Jubilee – Meet & Greet with Donors | 23 May 2026
Ugam members participated in the donor meet organized as part of the Indian Cancer Society's 75th Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Anamika Soni delivered a special performance, while Vansh Gupta shared his inspiring survivorship journey.



Vansh Gupta



Anamika Soni

We Miss You



In Loving Memory of Dr. Anita Borges

UGAM fondly remembers Dr. Anita Borges, former Vice Chairperson of the Indian Cancer Society, whose compassion, wisdom, and dedication to cancer care inspired countless lives. She talked on evidence based practice and publishing work during National Survivorship Workshop, which followed 16th UGAM Anniversary.

Rest in Peace, Dr. Anita Borges.

We thank the Honorary Advisors for their valuable time and expertise

Dr. D J Jussawalla Educational Fund Selection Committee

- Dr. Purna Kurkure - *Trustee in charge - Cancer Survivorship & Rehabilitation, ICS*
- Mr. K A Narayan - *Trustee-ICS, President HRD - Raymonds Ltd.*
- Ms. Sarika Parab - *M.S.W., Tata Memorial Hospital*
- Dr. Neelima Dalvi - *Social worker, HBCH - Chandigarh*
- Prof. Asha Banu Soletti - *CMHM, Dean - TISS*
- Smt. Shailaja Muley - *Senior educationist, Career Counsellor*

Dr. D J Jussawalla Educational Fund Governing Advisory Council (GAC)

- Mr. Hari Mundra - *Chairman, ICS*
- Mr. M K Sharma - *ICS Trustee*
- Mr. Kewal Nohria - *ICS Trustee*
- Mr. Gautam Chakravarti - *ICS Trustee*
- Mr. Kiran Talcherkar - *ICS Trustee*
- Ms. Ann Rawat - *Dep Director General - Fundraising, Finance & Operations, ICS*
- Mr. Pankaj Madholkar - *ICS Member*

Late Effects Advisors

- Dr. Puneet Arora - *Fertility expert, Delhi*
- Audiology Department- *Nair Hospital, Mumbai*
- Dr. Manish Agarwal - *Consultant Orthopaedic Oncosurgeon*
- Dr. Prof. Sudha Rao - *Paediatric Endocrinologist*
- Dr. Himika Gupta - *Ocular Oncologist and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeon - Vision & prosthesis*
- Dr. Prof. Kanchan Dholam - *Prosthodontist*

Advisors for psycho social assessments

- Dr. V Surendran - *Head, Dept of Psycho-oncology, Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai*
- Dr. Savita Goswami - *Clinical psychologist, Psychiatry Unit, Tata Memorial Hospital*
- Dr. Savita Sapra - *Senior Clinical Psychologist, Centre for Health Research & Development, Society for Applied Studies, Delhi*

We are Proud of You



Dr. V. Shanta Memorial Oration, Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai | 7th March 2026

Dr. Purna A. Kurkure represented the Indian Cancer Society and delivered the oration on “Cancer Care Continuum: Journey of Indian Cancer Society from Challenge to Change over 75 Years,” showcasing the organization's impactful legacy and continued commitment to comprehensive cancer care.



Dr Purna Kurkure delivered Vedwati agarwal Oration (in name of Vedanta Organization's (Balco Medical Centre) founder Mr Anil Agarwal's mother in annual BMC Conclave @ Raipur, September 2025. She highlighted ICS work in her oration.



Dr. Maya Prasad has been serving as Co-Chair of the SIOP Survivorship Network since 2024.



Dr. Savita Goswami was awarded a PhD in Psychology from SNDT Women's University and was appointed as a Member of the SIOP Paediatric Psycho-Oncology (PPO) Network Steering Group for the term October 2025–October 2028.



Dr. Shripad Banavali recently delivered the prestigious “Omega Excellence Oration” in Hyderabad on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Happy News



Krishna Pandey & Family
Krishna Pandey, Project Assistant Coordinator at ImPaCCT Foundation, Tata Memorial Hospital, and his family welcomed a baby girl on 10th March 2026.



Dr. Indumati Dineshkumar Yadav
Dr. Indumati Dineshkumar Yadav has earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Mumbai and serves as a Visiting Faculty at S.I.E.S. College, Mumbai. She shares, "Earning my Ph.D. became easier because of my husband's constant support and encouragement to achieve my goals."



Ashwini Vernekar & Shubham Rao
Ashwini and Shubham's journey reflects the strength of companionship and mutual support. Ashwini shares, "My husband has been my greatest support through every step of life. He chose to see me beyond my past and stood by me with love, understanding, and strength."



Manish & Deepali Sase
Manish and Deepali Sase welcomed their baby girl in August 2024. He is a D. Pharmacy graduate and currently working as a Senior Executive – Warehouse Operations at Nykaa.
"जिंदगी के सफर में हर दिन कहीं किस्से और नये लहरों का उगम होना तय है... जब की साथ ही हर वक्त उगम और पहचान भी वही है।"

Survivorship Developments in India



ICCI convened a National Stakeholder Workshop on Childhood Cancer in New Delhi under the theme, "The Pediatric Cancer Convergence: Bridging Policy, Care, and Lived Experience." The workshop brought together policymakers, healthcare professionals, technical experts, civil society organisations, survivor advocates, and partners from across India to strengthen collaboration and advance childhood cancer care in the country.

Actionable Policy Asks

- Expansion of survivorship clinics and standardization of survivorship care.
- Integration of Survivorship Care Plans and Digital Survivorship Passports.
- Government Schemes to Cover After Completion of Treatment Care and Late Effects.
- Legalize Non-Discriminatory Right to Health Insurance and Employment.



Pediatric Hematology Oncology Journal

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phoj.2024.02.002>

Establishing childhood cancer survivorship clinics in India: A consensus statement

Rachna Seth ^{a, *}, Maya Prasad ^b, Gauri Kapoor ^c, Gargi Das ^d, Srinivasan Prasanth ^d, Vandana Dhamankar ^e, Purna Kurkure ^f, M Melissa Hudson ^{g, h}

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

Long-Term Outcomes in Survivors of Childhood Cancer: A 30-Year Experience From India

Maya Prasad, MD^{1,2}; Savita Goswami, MA^{3,4}; Girish Chinnaswamy, MD, MRCP^{5,6}; Shripad D. Banavali, MD^{7,8}; and Purna A. Kurkure, MD^{2,6}

<https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2022.00044>

JCO Global Oncology

Pediatric Blood & Cancer

REVIEW

Childhood cancer survivorship and late effects: The landscape in India in 2020

Ramandeep Singh Arora ^a, Puneet Rana Arora ^b, Rachna Seth ^c, Sonal Sharma ^d, Chandan Kumar ^e, Vandana Dhamankar ^f, Purna Kurkure ^g, Maya Prasad ^h

<https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.28556>

Pediatric Blood & Cancer

International Note

Surviving childhood cancer: What next? Issues under consideration at The After Completion of Therapy (ACT) clinic in India

P.A. Kurkure MD, DCH ^a; S. Adhikar: MBBS, DCH, U. Uparkar MD, N. Dalvi MA, S. Goswami MA

<https://doi.org/10.1002/mpo.10323>

Calendars for a Cause



Shweta Chawre, an animator and illustrator, is turning art into hope through her annual fundraising initiative, **Calendars for a Cause**.

A childhood cancer survivor herself, Shweta was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma and underwent treatment at Tata Memorial Hospital. She is also a member of Ugam – Victors of Childhood Cancer. Driven by her journey and a desire to support young patients facing similar challenges, Shweta creates and sells illustrated annual calendars, with proceeds dedicated to helping children battling cancer from under-resourced backgrounds.



Now in its sixth year, the initiative continues to make a meaningful impact. This year, 50% of the proceeds from calendar sales will be donated to the Indian Cancer Society to support its Paediatric Cancer Medical Aid Programme.



Through this effort, Shweta hopes to give every child fighting cancer a better chance at life while raising awareness about the importance of community support in the cancer care journey.

FOR ENQUIRIES & ORDERS

shwetachawre09@gmail.com @shwetac.illustrations
+91 91673 48077

Ashwini Chorge

a brain tumour survivor



has expressed her inspiring journey through the power of poetry, showcasing resilience, creativity, and hope.

“

जीवन जीना रात है, पर उस जीवन को जीना अभी बाकी है ...

जिस परिस्थिति ने डराया है, उसे जवाब देना अभी बाकी है ...

चल रही हूँ उस दृष्टे तक सहारे पर, उसे कैद कर करके अछा समय लाना अभी बाकी है ...

हारी हूँ मैं कई बार पर कोशिशों अभी जारी है, उन कोशिशों को सफलता में बदलना अभी बाकी है ...

यक के मरने दो केसा भी जाती, पर मेरा समय आना अभी बाकी है ... जो कर रहे मेरा मजाक, उन्हें करके दिखाना अभी बाकी है ...

रसमे दो उन्हें मेरी अतकलता पर, मेरा लकर अभी बाकी है ...

मुसीबत हूँ मैं सफलता की राह का, मेरी सफलता से सोर मचाना अभी बाकी है ...

बहुत कुछ खोया है आज तक पर बहुत कुछ पाना अभी बाकी है ...

मिला रही हूँ अपनी भूमिका जीवन के मंच पर, मेरे कर्तव्य पर तालियां बजाना अभी बाकी है ...

माना कि राह मुश्किल है, और रात भी है अंधेरी, ये आसमां छीन लेगा रेता सक,

नया हूँद लेंगे, हम वो परिदे नहीं जो

उड़ना छोड़ देते। - अपने अंदर एक नई उम्मीद जागाकर, सारे रिकॉर्ड तोड़ देते।

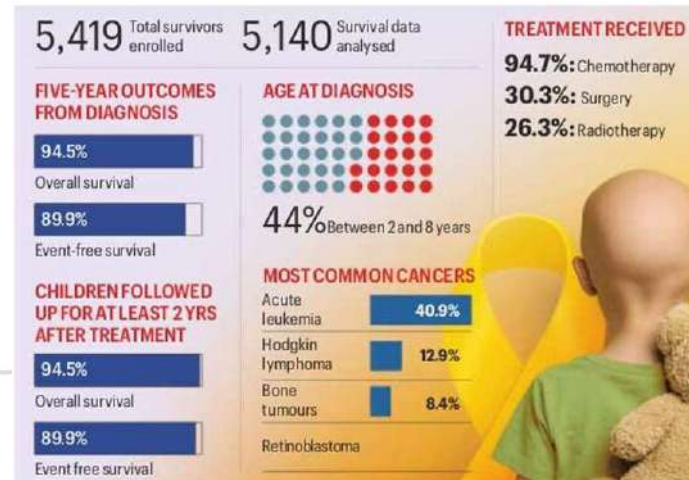
”

— Ashwini Chorge / Waychal

FIRST NATIONWIDE SURVIVAL REGISTRY

94.5% survival in childhood cancer, says study; flags late risks

Purnima Sah
Mumbai, February 2026



Indian Childhood Cancer Survivorship Study (C2S Study)
A Multicentre Registry of Childhood Cancer Survivors Following Treatment Completion.

Ugam Anthem
launched on 3rd June 2012

Written by Shashank Johri
&
Music composed by Immanuel Berlin

चल दिए हम लेकर अपना कारवाँ
लिखेंगे खुशियों से भरी एक दास्ताँ
राहों के टेढ़े मेढ़े जो मोड़ हो
टूटे ना इन हाथों के जो जोड़ हो
जीवन की धुप में हम पले हैं
काँटों के रास्तों पर चले हैं
महकाए फूलों से ये चमन
देखा जो दर्द को हम मिटा दें
एक लौ से ये जहाँ जगमगा दें
भरदे उमंगों से ये गगन
हम हैं उगम हम उगम

जीवन की आशा को
प्यार की भाषा से
अब तो महकाना है
खुशियों को लाना है
बढ़ते ही जाना है.... उगम
बिखरे उन सपनों को
फिरसे उठाना है
बढ़ते ही जाना है.... उगम

चल दिए हम लेकर अपना कारवाँ



ICS Survivorship & Rehabilitation Team, Mumbai



UGAM Members